

R. Burt, Richard

Vance and Dobrynin Meet Again on Arms Accord

By RICHARD BURT

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, APRIL 19— Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance and Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin of the Soviet Union met again tonight on the nearly completed treaty limiting strategic arms and there were signs that plans would be announced next week for a meeting between President Carter and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader.

A State Department spokesman said the Vance-Dobrynin session had been expected to focus on details of the proposed accord as well as on the summit meeting, now expected late next month. The

spokesman said two or three additional meetings between Mr. Vance and Mr. Dobrynin might be needed before a date could be announced.

A large question still to be resolved is the site for such a meeting. By protocol, it is the turn of the Soviet leader to visit the United States, but officials said Mr. Brezhnev's uncertain health was likely to be a factor in holding the meeting closer to Moscow. They said there was a good chance that it could be held in Geneva.

Although the United States had hoped to complete the entire treaty before the Carter-Brezhnev meeting, a Defense Department official said that one issue

would probably have to be settled by the two principals. That, he said, is whether the Soviet Union would be allowed to conceal missile test data from American monitoring systems under the treaty. The public position of the Soviet Union has been that a summit meeting could not be held until an accord was complete.

Meanwhile, a pro-treaty group known as Americans for SALT today criticized a study released last week by a lobbying group opposed to the treaty. The report, issued by the Coalition for Peace through Strength, said the treaty would "lock the United States into strategic inferiority."

Two members of the pro-treaty group, Townsend W. Hoopes, a former Under Secretary of the Air Force, and Herbert Scoville Jr., a former Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said at a news conference that the antitreaty arguments were "flawed by distortion and apparent ignorance."

In a printed statement, they said the United States "will retain under SALT II a powerful, flexible deterrent force that can, under any circumstances, retaliate and devastate Soviet military, industrial, and, if desired, civilian targets." They charged that the antitreaty report "exaggerated Soviet force levels and ignored American strengths."

"This biased presentation is an inexcusable disservice to our military and damaging to our security," they said.

In a related development, President Carter promised three liberal Senators in a letter, released today, that his effort to seek support for the treaty would not result in unnecessary arms initiatives. In a statement last month, the Senators — Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon; George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin — threatened to vote against the treaty if Mr. Carter planned new arms programs to gain support among Senate conservatives.

The President's letter, dated March 21, said: "I assure you that if the agreement is ratified — as I expect it will be — I will not permit the result to be a new strategic arms competition. Rather, I will move with increased energy to seek even more restrictive limitations in all those weapons areas in which we and other nations carry on needless and wasteful competition."